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Capital Reading**'Top of the Iceberg' View  
Of CIA No News in Kremlin***Reviewed by Harry Howe Ransom*

Ross

Mr. Ransom is professor of political science at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of "Central Intelligence and National Security" and "Can American Democracy Survive Cold War?"

**THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT.** By David Wise and Thomas B. Ross. Random House. 375 pp. \$5.95.

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY has always lacked friendly constituents. Right-wing conservatives suspect it because its existence symbolizes the global involvement of the United States in world affairs and because the CIA employs a large number



Wise

of eggheads. Liberals have long used CIA as a whipping boy, either depicting it as manned by blindly anti-Communist cops, or fearing the implications for democratic government of its secret power.

State Department foreign service officers commonly refer to CIA's overseas personnel as "spooks," regard them as clumsy competitors, and envy their affluence.

In the Pentagon, the new, centralized Defense Intelligence Agency appears to be a CIA competitor.

On Capitol Hill, the agency's reputation is poor, except among a handful of senior solons who somehow believe they know all they need to know about CIA. This bad name results from secrecy, one consequence of which has been to lead most Congressmen to expect too much from intelligence activities.

President Kennedy aptly

told CIA employees when dedicating their new headquarters in November, 1961, "Your successes are unheralded, your failures are trumpeted."

Washington journalists David Wise, chief of The New York Herald Tribune's bureau, and Thomas B. Ross of the Chicago Sun-Times have put together a book that trumpets the CIA's operational failures and the alleged failure of responsible political authority to control this "invisible government."

This muckraking book rests upon the simplistic idea that the "intelligence community," with CIA at its "heart," is the "other" government in Washington. They say it not only is a state within a state, but has bungled most of its clandestine overseas operations.

The book is touted by its publisher as "the first full, authentic account of

espionage apparatus." Wise and Ross claim that "much of the material has never been printed anywhere else before." Some government officials reportedly regard the book as a serious security breach.

Publisher and authors exaggerate the book's originality. Nonetheless, it is the most complete synthesis of information and speculation yet published. Some of its "revelations," however, are of doubtful accuracy.

For example, the authors say that the Center for International Studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology was established with CIA money in 1950 and "has adopted many of the practices in effect at the CIA headquarters in Virginia. An armed guard watches over the door and the participating academicians must show badges on entering or leaving."